



# AG DIGEST

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## Highlights

Hogs & Pigs  
Prospective Plantings  
Grain Stocks  
Agricultural Prices  
Poultry  
Livestock Slaughter  
Apple Cold Storage

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## HOG & PIG INVENTORY

There were 1,000,000 hogs and pigs on **Pennsylvania** farms on March 1, 2000. This estimated inventory was 100,000 head below the previous year's inventory. Market hog inventory, at 880,000 head, dropped 100,000 head; while breeding stock inventory, at 120,000 head, remained the same as in 1999. The December 1999-February 2000 pig crop totaled 409,000 head, no different from the same period a year earlier. There were 47,000 sows farrowed during the quarter, unchanged from the previous year. The average litter rate was 8.70 pigs per litter, the same per litter from the previous year.

**Pennsylvania** hog farmers intend to have 47,000 sows farrow during the March-May 2000 period, the same as actual farrowings a year ago. Farrowing intentions for the June-August quarter are projected

*This issue contains results of the March Agricultural Survey. We wish to thank the many Pennsylvania farmers who helped make these results possible.*

at 47,000 sows, 7 percent above the actual farrowings for the same period last year.

**U.S.** inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2000, was 58.1 million head. This was 3 percent below March 1999, and 2 percent below December 1, 1999. Breeding inventory, at 6.22 million head, was down 5 percent from March 1, 1999, and down slightly from December 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 51.9 million head, was 3 percent below last year, and 2 percent below last quarter. The December 1999-February 2000 U.S. pig crop, at 24.8 million head, was 2 percent less than 1999, and 3 percent less than 1998. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.82 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 45 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to 8.79 pigs saved per litter for the December-February period, compared to 8.73 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

**U.S.** hog producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrow during the March-May 2000 quarter, 4 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999, and 7 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for June-August 2000, at 2.85 million sows, are 2 percent below the same period last year and 7 percent below 1998. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 31 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 30 percent last year.

## **HOGS & PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER, MARCH 1, 1999-2000**

Item	Pennsylvania			United States		
	1999	2000	2000/99	1999	2000	2000/99
	(000) Head		Percent	(000) Head		Percent
Inventory - March 1:						
All Hogs & Pigs .....	1,100	1,000	91	60,191	58,147	97
Kept For Breeding .....	120	120	100	6,527	6,215	95
Market .....	980	880	90	53,663	51,933	97
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Groups:						
Under 60 Pounds .....	340	330	97	19,978	19,312	97
60-119 Pounds .....	250	230	92	12,899	12,513	97
120-179 Pounds .....	210	180	86	10,995	10,648	97
180 Pounds and Over .....	180	140	78	9,792	9,460	97
Sows Farrowing:						
December <sup>1</sup> -February .....	47	47	100	2,891	2,819	98
March-May .....	47	<sup>2</sup> 47	100	2,986	<sup>2</sup> 2,868	96
June-August .....	44	<sup>2</sup> 47	107	2,920	<sup>2</sup> 2,851	98
Pig Crop:						
December <sup>1</sup> -February .....	409	409	100	25,247	24,777	98
	Number			Number		
Pigs Per Litter:						
December <sup>1</sup> - February .....	8.70	8.70	100	8.73	8.79	101

<sup>1</sup> December preceding year. <sup>2</sup> Intentions

## PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES 4 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 96 based on 1990-92= 100, up 4 points (4.3 percent) from the February index. Higher prices for lettuce, cattle, broilers, and broccoli more than offset price decreases for eggs, strawberries, celery, and apples. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of strawberries, milk, broilers, and tomatoes more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges.

These marketing changes accounted for one point of the March index increase.

Compared with March 1999, the All Farm Products Index was unchanged. Price decreases from March 1999 for milk, oranges, eggs, and rice more than offset price increases for hogs, cattle, lettuce, and calves.

### **PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, MARCH 2000**

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Mar 1999	Feb 2000	Mar 2000 <sup>1</sup>	Mar 1999	Feb 2000	Mar 2000 <sup>1</sup>
Dollars							
Corn . . . . .	Bu.	2.47	2.57	2.56	2.06	1.98	2.03
Wheat, Winter . . . . .	Bu.	-	-	-	2.53	2.37	2.37
Oats . . . . .	Bu.	1.59	1.80	1.72	1.20	1.27	1.28
Barley . . . . .	Bu.	-	-	-	2.00	2.13	2.14
Hay, All . . . . .	Ton	106.00	138.00	133.00	79.00	72.60	74.80
Alfalfa . . . . .	Ton	126.00	150.00	151.00	83.20	77.40	78.00
Other . . . . .	Ton	97.00	126.00	125.00	67.40	66.70	66.70
Apples, Fresh Use . . . . .	Cwt.	22.00	-	18.00	15.30	21.10	20.50
Potatoes . . . . .	Cwt.	8.85	8.30	8.25	6.12	5.96	6.32
Cows, Slaughter . . . . .	Cwt.	35.60	36.90	38.40	35.20	37.10	38.60
Steers & Heifers . . . . .	Cwt.	60.80	66.20	66.60	65.50	71.20	72.80
Calves . . . . .	Cwt.	90.70	110.00	108.00	87.30	105.00	107.00
Barrows & Gilts . . . . .	Cwt.	25.50	38.50	38.20	28.30	40.10	41.70
Sows . . . . .	Cwt.	17.80	32.90	32.00	21.00	36.50	34.50
Turkeys <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	Lb.	.370	<sup>2</sup>	<sup>2</sup>	.370	.357	.382
Broilers <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	Lb.	.360	<sup>2</sup>	<sup>2</sup>	.358	.335	.349
Eggs, <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	Doz.	.570	.590	.440	.531	.523	.382
Milk, Fluid Grade . . . . .	Cwt.	16.80	12.90	-	15.10	11.90	11.90
Manufactured Grade . . . . .	Cwt.	11.80	9.80	-	12.30	10.20	10.20
All . . . . .	Cwt.	16.80	12.90	12.90	15.00	11.80	11.80
Milk Cows <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	Head	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary. <sup>2</sup> State price no longer published. <sup>3</sup> Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. <sup>4</sup> Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.).

### **PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, FEBRUARY 2000**

Variety	February 28, 1999					February 29, 2000				
	Fresh Market <sup>1</sup>		Processing		Total	Fresh Market <sup>1</sup>		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
(1,000) Bushels										
York . . . . .	0	0	342	444	786	1	0	466	415	882
Stayman . . . . .	3	26	26	0	55	3	23	44	2	72
Rome . . . . .	5	69	327	304	705	5	78	349	287	719
Red Delicious . . . . .	9	306	181	57	553	29	284	243	92	648
Golden Delicious . . . . .	3	95	192	289	579	2	103	318	367	790
Jonathan . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
McIntosh . . . . .	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	10	14
Cortland . . . . .	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Other <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	16	32	126	59	233	14	45	164	23	246
Total . . . . .	37	530	1,194	1,153	2,914	55	536	1,586	1,196	3,373

<sup>1</sup> Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. <sup>2</sup> Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

### **COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS** **FEBRUARY 29, 2000**

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 3,373,000 bushels on February 29, 2000, compared to 2,914,000 bushels on February 28, 1999. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 882,000; Golden Delicious, 790,000; and Rome, 719,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 159,899,000 pounds on February 29, 2000, compared to 122,388,000 pounds on February 28, 1999. Pear stocks in cold storage increased from previous year's stocks of 6,000 pounds to 66,000 pounds on February 29, 2000.

## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

**Pennsylvania** farmers intend to plant more acres of wheat, oats and soybeans in 2000. Intentions to harvest tobacco are down for the 2000 season. Intentions to plant barley and corn and harvest hay are unchanged from a year ago. All wheat, at 200,000 acres, is up 3 percent from last year. Expected barley planted acreage is 75,000, unchanged from 1999. Expected oats planted acreage is 175,000, up 3 percent from 1999. Expected oats acreage for harvest is 150,000, up 3 percent from last year. For row crops, intended plantings of corn are 1,500,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Soybean planted acreage is intended to be 380,000, 3 percent more than the 370,000 planted last year. Farmers also intend to plant 10,000 acres of sorghum in 2000. This is the first year that Pennsylvania has estimated this crop. Intentions are to harvest 2,600 acres of Southern Maryland-type tobacco, 13 percent less acreage than a year ago. Pennsylvania seedleaf type tobacco harvested acreage is also expected to be 2,600, down 19 percent from 1999. Harvest intentions for all hay in 2000 is 1,900,000 acres, unchanged from last year's harvest.

Farmers in the **United States** intend to plant 77.9 million acres of corn in 2000, up 1 percent from 1999, but down 3 percent from 1998. Expected acreage is down in Nebraska, the Great Lakes region, and mid-Atlantic states due mostly to dry conditions. Intended acreage is up in the central Corn Belt, northern Plains, Southeast, and West. Soybean producers intend to plant 74.9 million acres in 2000, up 1 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area for soybeans on record. Of the 31 soybean producing states, producers in 10 states intend to plant more acres this year, while producers in 13 states intend to plant fewer acres than in 1999. Seven states are unchanged from the previous year. West Virginia acreage estimates are included for the first time.

## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Crop	Area Planted			
	1998	1999	Ind 2000	2000/99
	(000) Acres			Percent
CORN				
Pennsylvania	1,550	1,500	1,500	100
United States	80,165	77,431	77,881	101
ALL WHEAT <sup>1</sup>				
Pennsylvania	195	195	200	103
United States	65,821	62,814	61,664	98
OATS <sup>1</sup>				
Pennsylvania	190	170	175	103
United States	4,892	4,670	4,351	93
BARLEY <sup>1</sup>				
Pennsylvania	80	75	75	100
United States	6,337	5,223	5,733	110
SOYBEANS				
Pennsylvania	400	370	380	103
United States	72,025	73,780	74,871	101
ALL HAY <sup>2</sup>				
Pennsylvania	1,850	1,900	1,900	100
United States	60,076	63,160	63,052	100
ALL TOBACCO				
Pennsylvania	7.8	6.2	5.2	84
United States	717.6	644.3	500.7	78

<sup>1</sup> Includes area planted in preceding fall. <sup>2</sup> Area harvested.

## GRAIN STOCKS

Pennsylvania's corn stored in all positions on March 1, 2000 was 37.8 million bushels, down 18 percent from March 1, 1999. On-farm corn stocks amounted to 31.0 million bushels, while off-farm stocks were 6.8 million bushels. Wheat stored off farms totaled 8.4 million bushels. Soybeans stored off farms totaled 2.5 million bushels. Barley stored off farms was 524 thousand bushels. On-farm oat stocks totaled 2.3 million bushels, and off-farm stocks were 504 thousand bushels. Pennsylvania's on-farm stocks of wheat, soybeans and barley are not published separately, but instead are included with an unallocated national total.

**Nationally**, corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2000 were estimated at 5.61 billion bushels, 2 percent less than on March 1, 1999. On-farm stocks totaled 3.30 billion bushels, 8 percent less than last year. Off-farm stocks were 2.31 billion bushels, up 8 percent from last year. All wheat stocks in all positions on March 1, 2000 are estimated at 1.41 billion bushels, down 3 percent from a

year ago. Wheat stored on farms was 423 million bushels, while off-farm stocks totaled 989 million bushels, up 1 percent.

Soybeans in all storage positions on March 1, 2000 totaled 1.40 billion bushels, down 4 percent from March 1, 1999. Farm stocks totaled 730 million bushels, down 10 percent from last year and accounted for 52 percent of total soybean stocks. Off-farm stocks are placed at 667 million bushels, 4 percent above a year ago. Barley stored in all positions on March 1, 2000 totaled 170 million bushels, 15 percent below stocks a year ago. On-farm stocks totaled 59.3 million bushels, 32 percent below a year earlier. Off-farm stocks were 110.9 million bushels, 3 percent below last year. Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2000 totaled 101 million bushels, 11 percent below the stocks of March 1, 1999. Of the total oat stocks on-hand, 53 million bushels are stored on farms, 15 percent below last year. Off-farm stocks totaled 49 million bushels, 4 percent below a year earlier.

## PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES: GRAIN STOCKS - MARCH 1, 2000 WITH COMPARISON

Grain	Year	Pennsylvania			United States		
		On Farms	Off Farms <sup>1</sup>	Total All Positions	On Farms	Off Farms <sup>1</sup>	Total All Positions
(000) Bushel							
Corn . . . . .	1999	39,000	7,008	46,008	3,570,000	2,128,428	5,698,428
	2000	31,000 <sup>2</sup>	6,826	37,826 <sup>2</sup>	3,300,000	2,305,529	5,605,529
Wheat . . . .	1999	<sup>2</sup>	5,774	<sup>2</sup>	471,220	979,191	1,450,411
	2000	<sup>2</sup>	8,422	<sup>2</sup>	423,180	989,201	1,412,381
Soybeans . .	1999	<sup>2</sup>	2,732	<sup>2</sup>	815,000	642,338	1,457,338
	2000	<sup>2</sup>	2,504	<sup>2</sup>	730,000	667,324	1,397,324
Barley . . . .	1999	<sup>2</sup>	600	<sup>2</sup>	86,900	113,808	200,708
	2000	<sup>2</sup>	524	<sup>2</sup>	59,300	110,883	170,183
Oats . . . . .	1999	3,300	483	3,783	61,700	50,850	112,550
	2000	2,300	504	2,804	52,900	48,523	101,423

<sup>1</sup> Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors. <sup>2</sup> Included in U.S. totals.

## MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000	Feb 1999	Jan 2000	Feb 2000
Layers . . . . .	Thous.	22,790	22,739	23,250	322,797	328,557	329,892
Eggs Per 100 Layers . . .	Number	2,089	2,238	2,103	1,946	2,178	2,019
Eggs Produced . . . . .	Million	476	509	489	6,281	7,155	6,662
Chick Hatch-Egg Type . .	Thous.	5,591	4,943	4,609	35,648	34,125	35,491
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	11,618	13,307	12,004	661,739	749,375	700,967
Poults Placed . . . . .	Thous.	-	-	-	23,722	24,676	24,138

### EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in **Pennsylvania** during February 2000 totaled 489 million eggs, an increase of 3 percent from the 476 million produced in 1999. The total number of layers averaged 23.3 million during February, compared with 22.8 million one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,103 eggs during the month, compared with 2,089 eggs in February 1999.

Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2000 totaled 4.61 million, down 18 percent from the 5.59 million hatched the previous February. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 12.00 million during February 2000, up 3 percent from the 11.62 million hatched the same month last year.

The **Nation's** laying flocks produced 6.66 billion eggs during February 2000, up 6 percent from a year ago. The total number of layers during February averaged 330 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,019 eggs, compared with 1,946 in February 1999.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during February totaled 35.5 million, down slightly from February 1999. Broiler-type hatch totaled 701 million, 6 percent more than the previous February. There were 24.1 million turkey poults placed in the United States during February 2000, up 2 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

### COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, FEB 2000

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod . . . . .	Mil. Lbs.	93.0	3,767
Cattle . . . . .	Thous. Hd.	77.9	2,937
	Mil. Lbs. Live	98.0	3,598
Calves . . . . .	Thous. Hd.	14.0	95
	Mil. Lbs. Live	4.9	30
Hogs . . . . .	Thous. Hd.	205.0	8,067
	Mil. Lbs. Live	50.1	2,108
Sheep & Lambs . . . . .	Thous. Hd.	4.1	293
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.4	40

### RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during February 2000 totaled 93.0 million pounds, up 5 percent from February 1999. Beef production, at 98.0 million pounds live weight, was up 6 percent from February 1999. Total head slaughtered was 77,900, up 6 percent; and live weight averaged 1,258 pounds, an increase of 1 pound. Veal slaughter was 4.94 million pounds live weight, up 4 percent. Calf slaughter of 14,000 head was 3 percent less than last year. Average live weight increased 23 pounds to 354 pounds. Pork production was 50.1 million pounds live weight, up 3 percent from 1999. Total head slaughtered was 205,000, an increase of 3.4 percent from last year. Live weight averaged 244 pounds, 1 pound lighter than last year. Lamb and mutton slaughter was 376,000 pounds live weight, down 27 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,100, down 15 percent. The average live weight decreased 14 pounds to 92 pounds.

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STATISTICS SERVICE  
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